



**U.S. Forest Service
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
30 S Chiricahua Drive
Springerville, AZ 85938**

News Release

Media Contact: Iris Estes

Web: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf

928-333-6280

Twitter: @A_SNFs

iestes@fs.fed.us

www.facebook.com/apachesitgreavesnfs



Lakeside Ranger District continues burning south of Pinedale Estates

Springerville, AZ—March 22, 2016—The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Lakeside Ranger District will continue the prescribed burn within the McCleve Unit of the Rodeo-Chediski Fire area March 21 through March 25, weather dependent. The 2,700 acres McCleve Unit is located three miles south of Pinedale on Forest Service Road (FR) 130. The prescribed fire block is surrounded by FR 130, 263, and 300. In December 2015, and earlier this month the district completed approximately 2,000 acres of treatment within the project area. Fire management proposes to burn an estimated 700 additional acres completing the project.

Ignition may last several days, with daily smoke impact anticipated within area drainages. Smoke will be visible in the local area, from Arizona State Highway 260, Overgaard and Show Low.

Prescribed burning provides many benefits and is essential to maintaining healthy forest ecosystems. It provides habitat diversity, recycles plant nutrients into the soil and encourages new growth for a variety of plants used by wildlife and livestock. Objectives of this project are to maintain and protect ponderosa pine stands while providing browse for wildlife. The prescribed fire is in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Habitat Partnership Committee.

Crews will be on scene from ignition until there is no longer a threat of escape from the project boundaries.

Questions or concerns contact the Lakeside Ranger District at (928) 368-2100 or by calling 311 or 928-333-3412. Also, check out the ASNFs website: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf

###